



National Park Service

U.S. Dept. of the Interior

Washington, D.C.

President's Park



WINTER 2009

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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Black History Month

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White House Visitor Center

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C.

1809-2009: Celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial

During the gravest crisis in American history, President Abraham Lincoln preserved the Union, led the effort to eradicate slavery, and articulated the best aspirations of American democracy. In 2000, the United States Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission was established by Congress to plan the national observance of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth in 2009. This Commission has the task of sharing with all fellow Americans, as well as people around the world, the enduring legacy of Abraham Lincoln. What more is there to learn about our 16th president? What remains relevant about a president born two centuries ago? Today, the 16th president tops the list of the most influential and revered president ever to serve. His words are quoted by politicians, as well as students. His face appears on stamps, coins and currency. Mountains, cities, highways and schools bearing his name dot the land. He felt his most enduring achievement was the Emancipation Proclamation. Indeed, Lincoln’s legacy is most alive in our continuous search for freedom, equality and opportunity.

He overcame being poor and uneducated to become a great president. He fought to keep the nation from splitting apart. He believed that all people are equal – just like the Declaration of Independence says. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy. As president, he built the new Republican Party into a strong national organization.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial here in Washington, D.C.: “With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds...”

Abraham Lincoln’s footsteps still echo through the halls of the White House.

President’s Park rangers are honored to be presenting free interpretive programs on Lincoln every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the White House Visitor Center. The Information Desk will have a schedule of these, special events and other programs happening throughout the year both here and at other local National Park Service sites in the Washington, D.C. area.


For additional information call (202) 208-1631.




“I do solemnly swear....”

On January 20, the formal 56th Inauguration Ceremony will take place for our 44th president on the west side of the Capitol. This event only happens every four years. We’d like you to participate in some of our celebrations of this historic event. Join us in the Visitor Center on Saturday, January 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Imagine yourself being sworn in as President of the United States as you repeat the Oath of Office. Be a contestant in our Inaugural Trivia Game and win prizes! Plan out who would march in YOUR Inaugural parade! An indoor scavenger hunt will have you searching for clues about past presidents’ inaugurations. *Call (202)208-1631 for additional information. No reservations required.*

SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES

 **President for a Day**
Visitors who “elect” to stop at the White House Visitor Center on Monday, February 16 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. may be sworn into office as “President for a Day” with the assistance of National Park Service rangers and President’s Park volunteers. During this full day of free activities, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to sample some of the sights, sounds, activities, and personages that have helped to make the White House America’s most significant residence. Come and experience many aspects of White House life from times gone by thanks to the participation of actors from the acclaimed American Historical Theater and National Park Service rangers and volunteers. The day’s events will include games, making a beeswax candle, quill writing and other crafts and activities for both children and adults. Chat with Abraham Lincoln or pull up a seat at Dolley Madison’s dinner table, practice presidential correspondence with a quill pen or step up to the “Bully Pulpit” like Teddy Roosevelt. *For additional information, call the White House Visitor Center in President’s Park at (202)-208-1631.*

 **A March of First Ladies**
On **Saturday, March 14**, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the White House Visitor Center, “A March of First Ladies” will celebrate the contributions of America’s Presidential spouses. Learn about the humanitarianism of Eleanor Roosevelt, Lou Hoover’s role as President of the Girl Scouts, and Frances Cleveland, the only First Lady to be married in the White House, as well as other prominent First Ladies. Enjoy crafts popular in the 19th century, and join an interpretive discussion focusing on the contributions made by these women to define the critically important role of the First Lady of the United States. *Reservations are NOT required.*



 **It’s Cherry Blossom Time!**
On March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft accepted a gift of 3,020 cherry trees from the Japanese government. This year’s National Cherry Blossom Festival runs from Saturday, March 28 through Sunday, April 12 and marks the 97th anniversary of this gift. Join us at the White House Visitor Center on **Saturday, March 28** between 12 noon and 3:00 p.m. Make your own unique tissue paper cherry blossom and hear a Park Ranger’s discussion on the history of these beautiful trees. *Reservations are NOT required.*



DAILY PROGRAMS AT PRESIDENT’S PARK

Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily, Monday through Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from twenty minutes to one hour. More detailed descriptions of today’s programs are available at the Visitor Center Information Desk.

 **GUIDED WALKS AROUND THE PARK**

Weather permitting

“A Winter Wonderland” – Join a Park Ranger’s talk on how the changing seasons affect the animals, plants and trees in President’s Park.

“Walk with Lincoln” – reminisce about the capital city during President Lincoln’s trying days while the Civil War raged on.

“Monument Walk North” – Join a Park Ranger and walk through Sherman and Lafayette Parks to explore the history of our American tradition of creating monuments and memorials to our heroes and ideals.

“A Walk Through President’s Park” Join a Park Ranger and discover the history of a park more than 200 years old.

 **1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

“Except One” – In observance of President’s Day (and week and month) join a Park Ranger and learn about the president who never lived in the White House.

“Inside the West Wing” – This Park Ranger discussion focuses on the presidential workplace.

“Four Score and Seven...” – Our 16th president wrote a short speech for the dedication of a cemetery honoring our Civil War dead.

“Who Goes There?” – Who is living in the White House now? Listen as a Park Ranger introduces you to the newest resident of this more than 200 year old house.

 **THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

“The Commonwealth of Virginia” – More presidents were born in Virginia than any other state in the union. Can you name all eight of these men?

“Who’s That in Lafayette Park?” – They stand in stone on the four corners of Lafayette Park. Who are they? A Park Ranger discusses the contributions made more than 200 years ago to our new nation by military men from across the seas.

 **GREAT PEOPLE IN HISTORY**

“Thank You, Mrs. Taft!” – A wise First Lady sought to make our capital city a place of beauty. It was a simple gift of cherry trees made almost a century ago. Join a Park Ranger and learn more about Helen Herron Taft.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Park Rangers will present a special 45 minute interpretive program celebrating Black History Month every week during the month of February.

For additional information call (202) 208-1631.



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Special Event



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.